

The Florida House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

Dean Cannon Speaker

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Florida House Passes 2011-12 General Appropriations Act

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House of Representatives today passed House Bill 5001, the 2011-12 General Appropriations Act (GAA), as well as a comprehensive list of related implementing and conforming bills.

"The Florida House diligently worked to produce a conservative budget that offers achievable cuts to government programs without raising taxes or fees on hardworking Florida families, while still maintaining a responsible level of reserves," said House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park). "I commend Chair Grimsley for successfully guiding the House's budget writing process and producing a balanced budget that prioritizes the critical needs of our state and emphasizes responsible spending in each area of government."

"This year, we faced a historic budget shortfall and were forced to make difficult, but necessary choices in order to fulfill our constitutional obligation to balance our state's budget," said Representative Denise Grimsley (R-Sebring), chair of the House Appropriations Committee. "The House budget not only fulfills our sole constitutional duty to balance the budget, but it promotes fiscally responsible government spending practices and encourages private sector growth through deregulation, adjustments to the Florida Retirement System and the creation of the State Economic Enhancement and Development (SEED) Trust Fund."

"I applaud my colleagues for passing this budget, and I look forward to working with my Senate counterpart during the conference process," concluded Representative Grimsley.

For more information on the GAA, please visit the <u>Florida House of Representatives webpage</u>.